

ST. HELEN'S
(ISLE OF WIGHT)
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Eleventh Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council,
acting as the Sanitary Authority.*

WYNDHAM HOUSE,
RYDE, I.W.

February 24th, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report of the sanitary condition of your district, for the year 1902.

This being the first Annual Report that I have had the honour to present, I feel that I cannot do better than follow the example set by my predecessor, and shall therefore give a summary of the requirements of the Local Government Board, under the following headings:—

1st. "A summary of action taken for the prevention of the spread of disease"

SMALL-POX.—One case.

CHOLERA.—No case known.

DIPHTHERIA.—Three cases.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—No case known.

ERYSIPELAS.—Four cases.

TYPHUS.—No case known.

TYPHOID.—One case.

RELAPSING FEVER.—No case known.

CONTINUED FEVER.—No case known.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—No case known.

SCARLET FEVER.—Four cases.

I visited the houses where these cases occurred, and saw that all precautions were taken for preventing the spread of the disease.

The solitary case of Small-pox occurred on board a barque, which was anchored in St. Helen's Roads, owing to stress of weather when ten days outward bound from London to Adelaide, and the case was eventually admitted into the Portsmouth Isolation Hospital.

Two out of the four cases of Scarlet Fever were by the courtesy of the Sandown Urban District Council admitted into the Sandown Isolation Hospital, and this fact leads me to again urge upon the Council the necessity of providing some means within the district, of effectually isolating cases of infectious disease.

The slight outbreak of Diphtheria originated in a cottage in Elmfield, in which, however, no sanitary defects could be discovered. The second case was caused by direct infection from the first before the latter had been notified, and the third (a very mild case) by direct infection from the second. The fumigation of the rooms, and disinfection of all articles likely to retain infection, were conducted in each case, either by the private medical attendant, or by your Sanitary Authority.

The distribution of these cases was as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	St. John's	...	.	...	2
"	...	...	...	Elmfield	...	...	...	1
Small-pox	...	On board ship,	St. Helen's Road	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	Sea View	...	...	...	4
Typhoid	...	...	...	Oakfield	...	...	..	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	Elmfield	...	...	...	2
"	"	...	...	Sea View	...	...	...	2
								13

2nd. "An account of the sanitary condition of the District, at the end of 1902."

Under this heading I include work done under my advice and by the Sanitary Inspector :—

Number of Nuisances reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
"	"	"	abated without notice	...	...	...	68
Cisterns supplied to W.C.'s	...	...	...	..	...	...	25
New pans provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
House drains disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	..	...	5
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—This is in good condition, and the Sewers are all regularly flushed.

WATER SUPPLY.—An excellent and abundant supply is distributed in the District from the Ryde Corporation Water Works at Knighton and Ashe. This water is regularly submitted to the Public Analyst, and the last Report pronounced it to be of pure quality.

During the year there have been extensions of the water mains at St. Michael's, St. Helen's and Ryde Road, Sea View. There have also been 33 new connections with water mains, principally at St. Helen's.

The supply of water has been 29 gallons per head per diem.

REMOVAL OF ASHES AND HOUSE REFUSE.—This work is most efficiently carried out by men in the employ of the Council, and in the Council's carts, once a week in summer, and once a fortnight in winter.

SCAVENGING.—This is also most efficiently done.

OFFENSIVE PROCESSES OF TRADE.—There are none in the District.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are none in the District.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND PIGGERIES.—These are inspected regularly and are all in good sanitary condition. There has only been one complaint during the year which has been specially brought to my notice.

DAIRIES AND COW SHEDS.—These are all in good sanitary condition, and are lime-washed twice in the year.

BAKE-HOUSES.—These are all in good sanitary condition, and are lime-washed twice yearly.

SCHOOLS.—These are all in a good sanitary condition.

The general sanitary condition of the District during the year has been good. The number of Infectious Diseases notified was small—13 in all—only one case being notified during the last twelve weeks of the year, and only one case proving fatal, viz., one case of Diphtheria.

A considerable amount of sanitary work has been done, especially with regard to the supply of flush cisterns to W.C.s, and to the connections with the water mains, more particularly at St. Helen's, where it is greatly needed, and these matters are still seriously engaging the attention of the Council.

3rd. "An account of the enquiries made by the Medical Officer of Health as to conditions injurious to health existing in the District, and of the proceedings relating to such conditions, in which he has taken part or advised, etc."

Several houses were visited by me, and certified as unfit for human habitation, viz., one in Elmfield and one in Oakfield, and they have since been repaired and cleaned.

I also advised the Council with regard to three houses in St. Helen's, where there was some slight overcrowding.

During the year, 18 new houses have been built in the District, and 6 have been added to and improved.

In January samples of Water were taken by me from the seven surface wells on St. Helen's Green, and reported on by me to the Council. The Water from two of these wells was entirely condemned for drinking purposes. The Water of two others was found to be fairly free from suspicion. That of the three remaining, I advised should be submitted to further analysis.

Samples of Water from each of the seven wells were taken by me, and sent to the Public Analyst who reported very unfavourably upon them.

The Water mains having been now extended to the District of St. Helen's, and the inhabitants being thereby afforded the opportunity of obtaining a reliable and pure supply of Water, it is my opinion that these wells should all be closed, and the Council has been seriously attending to the matter, and it is hoped that it will not be very long before the Council will be in a position to do this, as the inhabitants are taking advantage of the opportunity thus afforded them.

Every part of the District is systematically inspected, and all conditions tending to affect injuriously the public health are reported on and remedied.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

I here subjoin a Meteorological Summary by the courtesy of Mr. T. C. Flower, of Ryde.

SUMMARY FOR 1902.

Result of observations of the barometer, thermometer, and of the humidity and rainfall at Ryde, in 1902. The mean readings of each instrument, and the rainfall for each month are given in the following table :—

	BAROMETER.		THERMOMETERS.			HUMIDITY.	RAINFALL.
			Mean	Max.	Mean Min.	Mean Temp.	
January	30·220	46·	39·25		42·92	80·	1·68120
February	29·855	40·5	34·0		37·25	81·5	1·63624
March	29·852	52·15	41·55		46·85	82·8	2·64271
April	29·914	55·	43·3		49·15	76·8	1·72350
May	29·976	55·42	45·5		50·46	78·8	1·85946
June	29·928	62·8	53·66		58·26	79·	2·20991
July	30·048	69·32	57·25		63·28	74·3	1·07048
August	29·902	67·42	58·		62·71	81·	5·71712
September	30·035	64·7	54·5		59·6	77·1	1·02769
October	29·965	56·2	48·6		52·4	81·4	2·66567
November	29·886	50·7	44·4		47·55	84·6	4·49255
December	30·058	48·8	39·		43·9	83·	3·15017

The mean reading of the barometer for the year was 29·969.

The highest reading of the barometer was 30·950 on January 15th ; the lowest was 29·072 on December 30th.



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The mean reading of the maximum thermometer was 55·8 degrees ; that of the minimum was 46·59 degrees.

The mean temperature for the year was 51·19 degrees ; the mean daily range was 9·2 degrees.

The highest temperature was 79 degrees on July 16th ; the lowest 28 degrees, on February 14th

The mean humidity was 80 (saturation being 100).

August was the month in which most rain fell, 5·71712 inches being registered, being 3·27807 inches above the average for that month.

The driest month was September, with 1·02768 inches, being 2·32911 inches below the average.

The heaviest fall of rain in the twenty-four hours was 1·54732 inches, on August 17th.

The total rainfall for the year was 29·87670 inches, being 1·36362 inches below the average.

Rain was registered on 144 days.

4th. “ *Tabular Statements of the Sickness and Mortality within the District, classified according to diseases, ages and locality.*”

The population of the Urban Sanitary District of St. Helen’s (Isle of Wight) was estimated at the last Census (1901) as 4,645, distributed over a superficial area of 1,939 acres.

The births registered in 1202 were 109—(males, 54 ; females, 55 ; and of these 1 male and 3 females were illegitimate).

The **BIRTH-RATE** was, therefore, **23·46** per 1000 (as compared with the Registrar General’s Report for England and Wales, which was 28·6.

The deaths registered in 1902 were 54.

The **DEATH-RATE** was, therefore, **11·62** per 1000 (as compared with the Registrar General’s Report for England and Wales, which was 16·3 per 1000).

The deaths at all ages are represented as under :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	9
1 and under 5	...	...	...	...	...	2
5 „ 15	...	...	...	...	...	2
15 „ 25	...	...	...	...	...	2
25 „ 65	...	...	...	..	...	14
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	25
						<hr/> Total 54

Of these, 3 were due to accidental causes, viz., drowning, and one of these was a non-resident, who was picked up on the foreshore at Sea View.

The infant mortality rate of children under one year of age is expressed in the ratio of deaths to births per 1000. The births registered were 109, and the deaths under one year were 9. The mortality thus expressed is ~~82.56~~^{82.56}, or stated as a percentage on the total number of deaths registered, it was 16.66.

The following tabular form gives the number, causes and death-rate of the subjoined diseases :—

		No. of Deaths.			Death-rate.
Diphtheria	...	1	} Zymotic death-rate {		•21
Measles	...	1			•21
Influenza	...	2		•86	•42
Phthisis	...	4	..	..	... •84
Bronchitis		3	...	...	... •63
Pneumonia	..	4	...	..	... •84
Heart Diseases	...	13	...	...	... 2.73

In conclusion, I beg to offer my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council and to their officers for their invariable courtesy to me, and to say that it will be my earnest endeavour to carry out the duties appertaining to my office, to the best of my ability, and to further thereby the interests and welfare of the District.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LIONEL L. PRESTON.

ST. HELEN'S

(ISLE OF WIGHT)

Urban District Council.

ELEVENTH

Annual 

 *Report*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year ending December 31st,

1902.